

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus for supporting operations on program contents distributed at scheduled times, ~~characterized in that it has~~the information processing apparatus comprising:

a program information managing section which manages information on program contents;

a starting program setting section which sets a program at which the operations are started;

a starting-program-related information generating section which retrieves information on programs in all program states and extracts programs related to the starting program to generate a starting-program-related information page; and

a detailed operation screen presenting section which presents a detailed operation screen in response to the selection of a ~~related program~~ related to the starting program on ~~said base~~the starting-program-related information page, the detailed operation screen including a method of operation that can be used for ~~said~~the related program depending on the program state ~~thereof~~of the related program.

2. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that said~~wherein the starting program setting section sets as the starting program program contents selected from among program contents which ~~is~~are being reproduced, ~~or~~ watched and/or listened to by a user or from among program contents ~~selected from~~ in a predetermined program table ~~as the starting program~~.

3. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~said wherein the starting-program-related information generating section generates the starting-program-related information page

by extracting related programs from the ID of ~~said~~the set starting program.

4. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ ~~said~~wherein the starting-program-related information generating section generates at~~the~~ starting-program-related information page by extracting related programs from at least ~~the~~a date of broadcast, ~~the~~a time of broadcast, ~~the name of the~~and a broadcast station name, ~~and the like~~ at the time when ~~said~~the starting program is set.

5. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein ~~said~~the program information managing section manages program information including a plurality of items to which degrees of relationship to programs are assigned; and

~~said~~the starting-program-related information generating section retrieves programs related to the starting program with respect to each of the plurality of items based on the degrees of relationship ~~with~~to the starting program and generates at~~the~~ starting-program-related information page by arranging results of the retrieval.

6. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ ~~said~~wherein the starting-program-related information generating section generates at~~the~~ starting-program-related information page from the results of the retrieval by arranging the related programs in ~~the~~ descending order of the items in the degrees of relationship ~~with~~to the starting program.

7. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising~~characterized in that:~~

~~it further has~~ a reception section which receives program contents; and

~~_____~~ a recording section which performs recording and preset recording of the received program contents;~~and~~

~~wherein~~said the program states include at least one of states of program contents, i.e., "already recorded", "not recorded", "preset for recording", "not preset for recording", and "not received" states a state in which program contents have already been recorded, a state in which the recording has not been made yet, a state in which presetting for recording has already been made, a state in which presetting for recording has not been made yet, or a state in which program contents have not been received yet.

8. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ said wherein the starting-program-related information generating section displays the program state associated with each piece of related information on the starting-program-related information page.

9. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ said wherein the starting-program-related information generating section displays an icon indicating the program state associated with each piece of related information on the starting-program-related information page.

10. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that it further~~

~~has~~ further comprising a section which maintains a display history of ~~said~~ the starting-program-related page.

11. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ said wherein the detailed operation screen presenting section presents reproduction and/or erasure of record as the method of operation when the program state of a selected related program is the state in which program contents have "already been recorded".

12. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ said wherein the detailed operation screen presenting section presents cancellation of recording and/or confirmation of presetting as the method of operation when the program state of a selected related program is the state in which "presetting for recording" has already been made.

13. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ said wherein the detailed operation screen presenting section presents presetting for recording as the method of operation when the program state of a selected related program is the state in which "not presetting for recording" has not been made yet.

14. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ said wherein the detailed operation screen presenting section presents a plurality of methods for presetting for recording.

15. (currently amended) An information processing method for supporting operations on program contents distributed at scheduled times where information on each program content is managed using a database, ~~characterized in that it includes the~~ method comprising:

~~a starting program setting step for setting a program at which the operations are started;~~

~~a starting program related information generating step for searching the database for information on programs in all program states to extract programs related to the starting program and generating~~ a starting-program-related information page constituted by said including the extracted related programs; and

~~a detailed operation screen presenting step for presenting a detailed operation screen in response to the selection of a related program related to the starting program on said the~~ starting-program-related information page, the detailed operation screen including a method of operation that can be used for said the related program depending on the program state thereof of the related program.

16. (currently amended) An information processing method according to Claim 15, ~~characterized in that said wherein~~ the step of setting the starting program ~~setting step sets~~ includes setting program contents which is being reproduced or watched and listened to by a user or program contents selected from a predetermined program table as the starting program.

17. (currently amended) An information processing method according to Claim 15, ~~characterized in that said~~ starting program related information generating step generates a starting program related information page by wherein the step of

searching the database includes extracting related programs from the ID of saidthe set-starting program.

18. (currently amended) An information processing method according to Claim 15, ~~characterized in that said starting-program-related information generating step generates a starting-program-related information page by wherein the step of~~ searching the database includes extracting related programs from at least thea date of broadcast, thea time of broadcast, the name of the and a broadcast station name, and the like at the time when saidthe starting program is set.

19. (currently amended) An information processing method according to Claim 15, ~~characterized in that: wherein~~ said program information managementthe database manages program information including a plurality of items to which degrees of relationship withto programs are assigned; and saidthe step of generating the starting-program-related information page includesgenerating step retrieving programs related to the starting program with respect to each of the plurality of items based on the degrees of relationship with the starting program and generatesing a starting-program-related information page by arranging results of the retrieval.

20. (currently amended) An information processing method according to Claim 19, ~~characterized in that saidwherein~~ the step of generating the starting-program-related information generating step page includes generatesing athe starting-program-related information page from the results of the retrieval by arranging the related programs in the-descending order of the items in the degrees of relationship with the starting program.

21. (currently amended) An information processing method according to Claim 15, ~~characterized in that said~~wherein the program states includes at least one of a state in which program contents have already been recorded, a state in which the recording has not been made yet, a state in which presetting for recording has already been made, a state in which presetting for recording has not been made yet, ~~and/or~~ a state in which program contents have not been received yet.

22. (currently amended) An information processing method according to Claim 21, ~~characterized in that said~~wherein the step of generating the starting-program-related information ~~generating step~~page includes displaying the program state associated with each piece of related information on the starting-program-related information page.

23. (currently amended) An information processing method according to Claim 21, ~~characterized in that said~~wherein the step of generating the starting-program-related information ~~page includes generating step~~displaying an icon indicating the program state associated with each piece of related information on the starting-program-related information page.

24. (currently amended) An information processing method according to Claim 15, ~~characterized in that it further comprising has the step of~~ maintaining a display history of ~~said the~~ starting-program-related page.

25. (currently amended) An information processing method according to Claim 21, ~~characterized in that said~~wherein the step of presenting the detailed operation screen ~~presenting step~~includes presenting reproduction and/or erasure of record as ~~at the~~ method of operation when the program state of a selected

related program is the state in which program contents have
"already been recorded".

26. (currently amended) An information processing method according to Claim 21, ~~characterized in that said~~wherein the step of presenting the detailed operation screen presenting step includes presenting cancellation of recording and/or confirmation of presetting as ~~a~~the method of operation when the program state of a selected related program is the state in which "presetting for recording has already been made".

27. (currently amended) An information processing method according to Claim 21, ~~characterized in that said~~wherein the step of presenting the detailed operation screen presenting step includes presenting presetting for recording as ~~a~~the method of operation when the program state of a selected related program is the state in which "presetting for recording has not been made yet".

28. (currently amended) An information processing method according to Claim 27, ~~characterized in that said~~wherein the step of presenting the detailed operation screen presenting step includes presenting a plurality of methods for presetting for recording.

29. (currently amended) A recording medium recorded with a computer program described in a computer readable form to for executing a process for supporting operations on program contents distributed at scheduled times where information on each program content is managed using a database, ~~characterized in that it includes~~the process comprising:

~~a starting program setting step for setting a program~~
at which the operations are started;

~~a starting program related information generating step~~
for searching the database for information on programs in all
program states to extract programs related to the starting
program and generating a starting-program-related information
page ~~constituted by said~~including the extracted related
programs; and

~~a detailed operation screen presenting step for~~
presenting a detailed operation screen in response to the
selection of a ~~related program~~ related to the starting program
on ~~said the~~ starting-program-related information page, the
detailed operation screen including a method of operation that
can be used for ~~said the~~ related program depending on the program
state ~~thereof~~ of the related program.

IN THE DRAWINGS

Annotated drawing Figure 9 is submitted herewith to correct the typographical error therein as indicated in red.

| Attachment: Annotated sheet for Figure 9.